



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
*1102 SE Quince Street • PO Box 47990
Olympia, Washington 98504-7990*

January 9, 2002

To: American Indian Health Commission and Washington State Board of Health members

From: Joe Finkbonner, Washington State Board of Health Member

Re: Suggested Sue Crystal Memorial Indian Health Initiatives

Background:

The Washington State Board of Health and the American Indian Health Commission are committed to eliminating health disparities of American Indians and Alaska Natives. Based on work with representatives from the American Indian Health Commission (AIHC), the State Board of Health (SBOH), and American Indian health policy experts, four options for potential legislative action are ready for discussion and consideration at the January 9, 2002 meeting. For details on the work session and initiative options see the December 7, 2001 memo from the American Indian Health Commission Executive Committee, attached. These initiative options are proposed in honor of Sue Crystal's contributions to improving the health and living conditions for all Americans, and especially for American Indians in Washington State.

Possible Joint Motion by the AIHC and the WSBOH:

The AIHC and the SBOH jointly endorse options 1,2,3 and/or 4 for further refinement, enactment and implementation by appropriate tribal and state government agencies.

Option 1: Sue Crystal Annual Award for Leadership in Indian Health

Option 2: Endowed Chair of Indian Health Policy

Option 3: Indian Seat (non-voting) in the House and Senate

Option 4: Sue Crystal Indian Health Act

Attachment: Dec. 7, 2001 American Indian Health Commission Executive Committee